

**Correlation Between the Florida Writing Assessment Program
(FLORIDA WRITES!) and
*Written Communication for Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text***

To graduate from high school, Florida students must pass the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. This test has two parts: mathematics and reading. The test does not evaluate a student's ability to write, although the ability to write clearly is related to the ability to read and comprehend written language. In other words, improving writing skills strengthens a student's reading skills.

More significantly, though, a law passed by the 1990 Florida legislature requires tenth graders to take The Florida Writing Assessment. Moreover, Florida's plan for school improvement and accountability, Blueprint 2000, provides direct guidance for writing instruction. Of the seven goals set forth in Blueprint 2000, Goal 3 – Student Performance, is of particular importance to the instruction of writing. Goal 3 states, "Students successfully compete at the highest levels nationally and internationally and are prepared to make well-reasoned, thoughtful, and healthy lifelong decisions." In addition, Florida students are expected to "accurately use language, graphic representations, styles, organizations, and format appropriate to the language, information, concept, or idea and the subject matter, purpose, and audience."

When taking The Florida Writing Assessment, tenth-grade students are given 45 minutes to read their assigned topic, plan what to write, and write their responses. They must prepare both an expository and a persuasive essay. Essays are evaluated using holistic scoring, a method by which trained readers evaluate a piece of writing for its overall quality. Each piece of writing is evaluated in four areas: focus, organization, support, and conventions. The four areas are each graded on a six-point scale and have equal weight in determining the student's overall performance.

Writing Quality	Reference in <i>Written Communication for Sergeants: A Self-Paced Text</i>
Focus	No reference*
Organization	No reference*
Support	No reference*
Conventions	Correct sentence structure, Units 1 to 3 and Unit 6; Correct mechanics, Units 4, 5, and 7; Correct punctuation, Unit 8; and Correct capitalization, Unit 9

* = reference in follow-on book